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ABSTRACT

Administrators and counselors at one private and six public junior colleges in Nebraska answered questions and offered their opinions on and knowledge of drug use and abuse in their colleges. Topics covered by this study include: kinds of student involved; extent of the problem on Nebraska junior college campuses; factors that influence students to engage in drug use; personal opinions about the effects of drugs; and suggestions for solving the problem. (CA)

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# PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND COUNSELING STAFFS TOWARD DRUG USE AND ABUSE IN NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGES

by

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# INTRODUCTION

> The American public has become aware of a serious problem in their own public schools. Even in less densely populated areas of the country, there is an increasing recognition of drug usage among school children.[1]

Similar research to Gallup's survey has added to our growing knowledge about drug use and abuse in our secondary schools; little, however, is known about the use of drugs on college campuses. Most particularly, comprehensive evidence of drug use and abuse in junior colleges remains undiscovered as of current date.

Sanford Feinglass, Program Coordinator for the Drug Abuse Education Project, states:

> A drug program at the high school or college level should take into consideration the fact that there are a number of students in class who are drug users. A program at this level should deal with all drugs and their unsafe usage and stress the undesirable situation and circumstances of unwise drug use.[2]

However, before implementing drug education programs at the college level, a tremendous quantity of facts must be unearthed. The number of students involved, frequency of drug utilization, and school personnel attitude are indispensable items of information needed before attempting to establish a drug education program at the college level. To date, such information has not been compiled.

Personal interest in the area of drug education, coupled with the dearth of sufficient data on college personnel attitude toward drug use and abuse in

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[1]George Gallup, "Second Annual Survey of the Public's Attitude on Public Schools, Phi Delta Kappa, LII, 2, October 1970, p. 103.

[2]Sanford Feinglass, opinion expressed in Nebraska Educational Television Council for Higher Education, Conversation with Mrs. Lucille Witt, ("The School and Drug Abuse") at Lincoln, Nebraska, October 22, 1969.

institutions of higher learning led this writer to investigate the drug problem in Nebraska junior colleges in the fall of 1970.

## THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

The primary purpose of this study was to assess perceptions and attitudes of administrative and counseling staffs toward drug use and abuse by students in Nebraska junior colleges. More specifically, the following questions were posed:

1. Whether drug use and abuse is a problem on the Nebraska junior college campus?
2. What kind of student is involved in drug use and abuse on the Nebraska junior college campus?
3. What factors have influenced the student to engage in drug use and abuse on the Nebraska junior college campus?
4. What can be done to solve the problem of drug use and abuse on the Nebraska junior college campus?
5. What personal opinions do administrators and counselors have about the effects of drugs on the human body?

## SCOPE AND DELIMITATIONS

All Nebraska junior colleges public and private were included in this study, as identified the the 1970 Directory, American Association of Junior Colleges. Two-year technical colleges, whether public or private, or listed as junior colleges in the Directory were not included in the study. Of the seven schools selected for the study, six were public and one was private. (See Appendix C for list of participating institutions)

For the purpose of this report, the two-year institutions listed in the Directory will be referred to as junior colleges. The study included only those people designated as administrators or counselors. No attempt was made to give any factual information to participants; hence, each responded from the extent of his own knowledge and personal opinion.

No attempt was made to survey the perception and attitude of students, faculty or community population in or around the junior college campus.

## PROCEDURES

The initial step in this study was made by surveying the current literature on drug use and abuse. Twenty-five questions were then formulated from the literature that reflected critical areas of concern in drug use and abuse. Assistance from Udo H. Jansen, professor of Secondary Education at the University of Nebraska, was solicited in an attempt to reformulate and refine the components of the opinionnaire. Finally, the instrument was piloted at the University of Nebraska. Several copies were submitted to numerous professors in the Secondary Education department whose criticisms and suggestions were utilized in the refinement of the instrument. A letter (see Appendix B) was then mailed to seven Nebraska junior colleges as listed in the 1970 Directory, American Association of Junior Colleges. The president of the college was requested to distribute a copy of the opinionnaire to each of his staff in administrative and counseling positions at his institution for completion and return. Forty-four returns were received and could be used in the final computation of the survey.

## INSTRUMENT

The instrument (see Appendix A) was based on a five point attitude scale. Respondents were asked to mark a one for complete agreement and a five for complete disagreement to each statement. Three indicated a neutral, undecided, or no opinion response. Both percentage and mean scores were computed from the instrument. The mean score range should be interpreted as follows: 1.0 to 2.5 were classified as agreement; 2.6 to 3.5 were classified as neutral; 3.6 to 5.0 were classified as disagreement.

## FINDINGS

Counselor and administrative staff numerical distribution from the seven Nebraska junior colleges is indicated in Table I. Only one junior college replied that they did not have a counselor. Many of the junior colleges indicated that their counselors functioned in a dual role both as a counselor and instructor.

TABLE I

DISTRIBUTION OF COUNSELORS AND ADMINISTRATORS, BY NUMBER PARTICIPATING

| School | Number of Counselors | Number of Administrators |
|---|---|---|
| A | 2 | 6 |
| B | 1 | 7 |
| C | 1 | 6 |
| D | 1 | 4 |
| E | 0 | 3 |
| F | 2 | 5 |
| G | 1 | 5 |

Total = 44

## IS DRUG USE A PROBLEM?

Counselor and administrator opinions on the incidence of drug abuse in Nebraska junior colleges being relatively low in comparison to other junior colleges in the United States is found in Table II. The data show 72.7 per cent agreeing, with 15.9 per cent strongly agreeing, and 56.8 per cent tending to agree. The mean score, 2.20, indicated agreement with the statement.

TABLE II

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "THE INCIDENCE OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG STUDENTS IN NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGES IS RELATIVELY LOW AS COMPARED TO OTHER STUDENTS IN JUNIOR COLLEGES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 7 | 15.9 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 25 | 56.8 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 8 | 18.2 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 4 | 9.1 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 0 | 0.0 |
| M = 2.20 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

The tabulation in Table III indicates that drug abuse is not more prevalent among students in junior colleges in comparison to four-year institutions or universities. The data show 95.4 per cent disagreeing, with 50.0 per cent strongly disagreeing, and 45.4 per cent tending to disagree. Only 2.3 per cent agreed with the statement. The reader will note that the mean score, 4.41, indicated a strong feeling of disagreement with the statement.

TABLE III

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "IN NEBRASKA, DRUG ABUSE IS MORE PREVALENT AMONG STUDENTS IN JUNIOR COLLEGES THAN FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OR UNIVERSITIES."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 1 | 2.3 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 0 | 0.0 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 1 | 2.3 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 20 | 45.4 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 22 | 50.0 |
| M = 4.41 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

Table IV shows the analysis of the administrators and counselors opinions on whether drug use and abuse will increase significantly within the next few years. Nearly one-third, 31.8 per cent, tended to agree, while nearly one-fourth, 22.8 per cent, tended to disagree with the statement. Nearly one-third, 31.8 per cent, were undecided, neutral, or had no opinion. The mean score was 2.91 indicating mixed attitudes about the statement.

TABLE IV

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "DRUG USE AND ABUSE IN NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGES WILL INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 3 | 6.8 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 14 | 31.8 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 14 | 31.8 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 10 | 22.8 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 3 | 6.8 |
| M = 2.91 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

As the data reveal in Table V, two-thirds, 68.2 per cent, agreed that alcohol abuse is more serious than drug abuse, with 43.2 per cent tending to agree and 25.0 per cent strongly agreeing. It should be noted that no one strongly disagreed with the statement. The mean score was 2.25 indicating a feeling of agreement with the statement.

TABLE V

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "ALCOHOL ABUSE IS MORE SERIOUS THAN DRUG ABUSE ON THE NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGE CAMPUS."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 11 | 25.0 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 19 | 43.2 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 6 | 13.6 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 8 | 18.2 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 0 | 0.0 |
| M = 2.25 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

## WHAT KIND OF STUDENT IS INVOLVED?

The tabulation in Table VI show that 34.0 per cent of the administrators and counselors were undecided, neutral, or had no opinion on whether drug abuse was primarily a problem with the below average student in the Nebraska junior college. Only 11.4 per cent agreed, with 9.1 per cent tending to agree and 2.3 per cent strongly agreeing. However, over one-half, 52.3 per cent, disagreed, with 38.7 per cent tending to disagree and 13.6 per cent strongly disagreeing. The mean score was 3.45.

TABLE VI

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "DRUG ABUSERS IN NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGES ARE BELOW AVERAGE STUDENTS."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 1 | 2.3 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 4 | 9.1 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral or no opinion. | 15 | 34.0 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 17 | 38.7 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 6 | 13.6 |
| No response | 1 | 2.3 |
| M = 3.45 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

The counselors and administrators were asked to state their opinion on the kind of student involved in drug use and abuse. The figures in Table VII indicate that 81.8 per cent disagreed that drug abuse is primarily a problem with the high achieving student, with 50.0 per cent strongly disagreeing, and 31.8 per cent tending to disagree. Only 2.3 per cent tended to agree and the same percentage, 2.3 per cent, strongly agreed with the statement. The mean score, 4.25, indicated strong disagreement with the statement.

TABLE VII

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "DRUG ABUSE AMONG STUDENTS IN NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGES IS PRIMARILY A PROBLEM WITH THE HIGH ACHIEVING OR TOP RANKING STUDENT."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 1 | 2.3 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 1 | 2.3 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 6 | 13.6 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 14 | 31.8 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 22 | 50.0 |
| M = 4.25 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

As shown in Table VIII, 52.3 per cent agreed that drug abuse is primarily a problem with the average student, with 36.4 per cent tending to agree and 15.9 per cent strongly agreeing. No respondent strongly disagreed while 27.3 per cent were undecided, neutral, or had no opinion. The mean score was a 3.66.

TABLE VIII

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "DRUG ABUSE IN NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGES IS PRIMARILY A PROBLEM WITH THE AVERAGE STUDENT."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 7 | 15.9 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 16 | 36.4 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 12 | 27.3 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 9 | 20.0 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 0 | 0.0 |
| M = 3.66 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

## WHAT FACTORS HAVE INFLUENCED THE STUDENT?

Table IX exhibits the tabulation concerning whether administrators and counselors felt that easy access to drugs was the primary reason for drug use and abuse. Nearly one-third, 31.8 per cent, tended to agree, while another one-third, 38.6 per cent, tended to disagree. There were 18.2 per cent who were undecided, neutral, or had no opinion. The mean score was 3.02.

TABLE IX

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "A PRIMARY REASON FOR DRUG ABUSE AND USE IN THE NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGE IS THE EASY ACCESS TO DRUGS."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 3 | 6.8 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 14 | 31.8 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 8 | 18.2 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 17 | 38.6 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 2 | 4.6 |
| M = 3.02 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

The administrators and counselors were asked to indicate whether they felt that experimentation was the single most important factor leading to drug abuse. The reading in Table X reveal that nearly two-thirds, 61.3 per cent, tended to agree, while 18.2 per cent strongly agreed. It should be noted that no one strongly disagreed with the statement. The mean score was 2.07 indicating decided agreement with the statement.

TABLE X

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR LEADING TO DRUG ABUSE ON THE NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGE CAMPUSES IS EXPERIMENTATION."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 8 | 18.2 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 27 | 61.3 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 7 | 15.9 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 2 | 4.6 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 0 | 0.0 |
| M = 2.07 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

Table XI gives the data concerning the attitudes of counselors and administrators toward drug abuse as a result of student dissatisfaction or disillusionment with the prevailing educational system. Over one-fourth, 29.5 per cent, strongly disagreed and nearly one-half, 47.7 per cent, tended to disagree with the statement. No one strongly agreed with the statement. The mean score was 4.02 which indicated a feeling of strong disagreement with the statement.

TABLE XI

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR DRUG ABUSE IN THE NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGE IS THE DISSATISFACTION OR DISILLUSIONMENT WITH THE PREVAILING EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 0 | 0.0 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 2 | 4.6 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 8 | 18.2 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 21 | 47.7 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 13 | 29.5 |
| M = 4.02 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

Counselors and administrators were asked to give their opinion on whether drug abusers were using drugs as a means of rebelling against their parents and society. Tabulation shown in Table XII indicate 40.9 per cent tended to agree, and 15.9 per cent tended to disagree, with the statement. The mean score, 2.93, indicated that counselors and administrators had neutral attitudes about the statement.

TABLE XII

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "THOSE WHO ARE DRUG ABUSERS IN THE NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGES ARE USING DRUGS AS A MEANS OF REBELLING AGAINST THEIR PARENTS AND SOCIETY."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 1 | 2.3 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 18 | 40.9 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 13 | 29.5 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 7 | 15.9 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 5 | 11.4 |
| M = 2.93 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

Whether counselors and administrators believed the feeling "to belong" or to be with the "in group" was an important reason in drug use and abuse by students in the Nebraska junior colleges is recorded in Table XIII. The reader will note that 68.1 per cent tended to agree, while 9.1 per cent strongly agreed with the statement. The mean score, 2.32, indicated a feeling of agreement with the statement.

TABLE XIII

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR DRUG ABUSE AND USE IN THE NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGE IS THAT THE STUDENT FEELS A NEED 'TO BELONG' OR TO BE WITH THE 'IN GROUP.'"

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 4 | 9.1 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 30 | 68.1 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 4 | 9.1 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 4 | 9.1 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 2 | 4.6 |
| M = 2.32 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

The record in Table XIV give a summary of the responses to the statement that stress in academic course work cause students to use and abuse drugs. Over three-fourths, 86.3 per cent, reported they disagreed, with 54.5 per cent strongly disagreeing and 31.8 per cent tending to disagree. However, 9.1 per cent agreed with the statement, with 6.8 per cent tending to agree and 2.3 per cent strongly agreeing. The mean score of 4.30 indicated a strong disagreement with the statement.

TABLE XIV

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "THE STRESS IN ACADEMIC COURSE WORK CAUSES STUDENTS IN NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGES TO USE AND ABUSE DRUGS."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 1 | 2.3 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 3 | 6.8 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 2 | 4.6 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 14 | 31.8 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 24 | 54.5 |
| M = 4.30 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

## WHAT CAN BE DONE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

The administrators and counselors were asked if the absence of a drug program represented a void in the total junior college educational program. The data in Table XV show that 45.4 per cent of the respondents tended to agree while 22.7 per cent strongly agreed. Over one-fifth, 20.5 per cent disagreed with the statement, with 15.9 per cent tending to disagree and 4.6 per cent strongly disagreeing. Agreement with the statement was indicated by a mean score of 2.34.

TABLE XV

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "THE ABSENCE OF DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGE CAMPUSES REPRESENTS A VOID IN THE TOTAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 10 | 22.7 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 20 | 45.4 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 5 | 11.4 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 7 | 15.9 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 2 | 4.6 |
| M = 2.34 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

The tabulation in Table XVI show that 36.4 per cent of the administrators and counselors tended to agree, while 15.9 per cent strongly agreed that small groups freely discussing the problems of drugs would do more toward solving the drug problem than would establishing a program of drug education in the curriculum. The mean score was 2.52.

TABLE XVI

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "SMALL GROUPS HONESTLY AND FREELY DISCUSSING THE PROBLEMS OF DRUGS WOULD DO MORE TOWARD SOLVING THE DRUG PROBLEM IN NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGES THAN WOULD ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM OF DRUG EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 7 | 15.9 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 16 | 36.4 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 12 | 27.3 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 9 | 20.4 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 0 | 0.0 |
| M = 2.52. | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

The administrators and counselors were asked to respond to the statement that no drug prevention program will be successful unless students were involved in the planning and execution. 88.6 per cent agreed, with 43.2 per cent tending to agree and 45.4 per cent strongly agreeing with the statement. Less than one-tenth, 9.1 per cent, tended to disagree with the statement. The reader will note in Table XVII that the mean score was 1.75 indicating a feeling of strong agreement with the statement.

TABLE XVII

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "NO DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAM IN NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGES WILL BE SUCCESSFUL UNLESS THE COLLEGE STUDENTS THEMSELVES ARE INVOLVED IN PLANNING AND EXECUTION."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 20 | 45.4 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 19 | 43.2 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 1 | 2.3 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 4 | 9.1 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 0 | 0.0 |
| M = 1.75 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

The data in Table XVIII point out that 93.2 per cent of counselors and administrators agreed that an effective junior college drug education program must provide for continuous community involvement, with 47.7 per cent tending to agree and 45.5 per cent strongly agreeing. It should be pointed out that no one strongly disagreed or tended to disagree with the statement. The mean score of 1.61 reflected the strongest agreement of the staffs.

TABLE XVIII

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "EFFECTIVE JUNIOR COLLEGE DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA MUST PROVIDE FOR CONTINUOUS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 20 | 45.5 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 21 | 47.7 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 3 | 6.8 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 0 | 0.0 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 0 | 0.0 |
| M = 1.61 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

The administrators and counselors were asked their opinion whether drug education programs which provide information concerning the affects of drugs can lead to experimentation by the students. 70.4 per cent disagreed; 40.9 per cent tended to disagree and 29.5 per cent strongly disagreed with the statement. The mean score of 3.82 as shown in Table XIX indicated a feeling of disagreement with the statement.

TABLE XIX

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMS WHICH PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE AFFECTS OF DRUGS CAN LEAD TO INCREASED INCIDENTS OF EXPERIMENTATION AMONG NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDENTS."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage + |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 0 | 0.0 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 8 | 18.2 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 5 | 11.4 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 18 | 40.9 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 13 | 29.5 |
| M = 3.82 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

## PERSONAL OPINIONS ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF DRUGS

As indicated in Table XX, respondents were asked to give their opinions whether marijuana is harmless. More than three-fourths, 86.4 per cent, indicated that they disagreed, 43.2 per cent tending to disagree and the same per cent strongly agreeing with the statement. The reader will note that 6.8 per cent strongly agreed with the statement. The mean score was 4.09 indicating a feeling of strong disagreement with the statement.

TABLE XX

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "MARIJUANA IS HARMLESS."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree | 3 | 6.8 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 0 | 0.0 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 2 | 4.5 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 19 | 43.2 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 19 | 43.2 |
| No response. | 1 | 2.3 |
| M = 4.09 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

Authoritative sources differ greatly on the effects of LSD. Counselors and administrators were asked to state their opinion on whether they thought LSD stimulates or enhances creativity. The data in Table XXI reveal strong disagreement with; 65.9 per cent strongly disagreeing and 20.4 per cent tending to disagree with the statement. Only 4.6 per cent agreed with the statement.

TABLE XXI

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "THE DRUG LSD STIMULATES OR ENHANCES CREATIVITY."

| Attitude | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Strongly agree. | 0 | 0.0 |
| 2. Tend to agree, but not strongly so. | 2 | 4.6 |
| 3. Undecided, neutral, or no opinion. | 4 | 9.1 |
| 4. Tend to disagree, but not strongly so. | 9 | 20.4 |
| 5. Strongly disagree. | 29 | 65.9 |
| M = 4.48 | | |
| Total | 44 | 100.0 |

## DRUG USE AND ABUSE ON CAMPUS

The figures in Table XXII show what per cent of the student body that had engaged in drug use according to the opinion of the counselors and administrators. It was interesting to note that 39 respondents reported an average of 16.6 per cent of drug use on their campus.

TABLE XXII

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "WHAT PER CENT OF THE STUDENT BODY ON YOUR NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGE CAMPUS HAVE ENGAGED IN DRUG USE?"

| *Number of Counselors and Administrators Responding | Average of Per Cent Reported |
|---|---|
| 39 | 16.6 |

*Number does not total 44 since some did not respond to this question.

The record in Table XXIII reveal what per cent of the student body had participated in drug abuse according to the perception of the counselors and administrators. Of the 39 responses, an average of 4.9 per cent of the student body was reported to have participated in drug abuse.

TABLE XXIII

RESPONSE TO STATEMENT: "WHAT PER CENT OF THE STUDENT BODY ON YOUR NEBRASKA JUNIOR COLLEGE CAMPUS HAVE ENGAGED IN DRUG ABUSE?"

| *Number of Counselors and Administrators Responding | Average of Per Cent Reported |
|---|---|
| 39 | 4.9 |

*Number does not total 44 since some did not respond to this question.

Personal knowledge and information that counselors and administrators deemed important concerning drug use and abuse on their campus were as follows:

1. Too new to know.
2. Influence comes from "herd leaders" and many drug users and abusers follow them.
3. There are many more critical areas of concern now on our campus rather than drug use and abuse.
4. It would be a violation of my code of ethics to relate any information.
5. I have no personal knowledge of drug use or abuse.
6. There is one former user on our campus who now testifies against drug use and disclaims the use of drugs to others.
7. We have very little drug use and abuse on campus because we are a church college. Use and abuse of drugs is a sin against God and a crime against society.
8. Drug use and abuse is a minimal problem on our campus.
9. Our student population is highly religiously oriented and is not a typical cross section of the total junior college population.
10. We do have some students who have used drugs prior to coming to this campus.
11. I know of no incidents of drug use and abuse.
12. Group discussions by students, faculty, and the general public are necessary for drug education success.
13. The use of drugs on our campus is more prevalent than I thought.
14. Many students use marijuana because it is easily picked. "Other drugs" are hard to come by but they are being brought in from other areas.
15. I have no personal knowledge of drug use and abuse.
16. Peers usually sell other students on the use of drugs.
17. I have only second hand information, but I have heard recently of drugs being used on our campus.
18. Most of my information is by rumor. I believe it is largely a result of experimentation, but it is not on a large scale. It parallels the sexual revolution.
19. Certain students advocate the use of drugs and this leads to experimentation.
20. Drug use with the exception of marijuana is on the decline.
21. We have had no serious incidents and it is a minor problem. A number of students feel the symptoms of social disorganization, rapidly changing value systems, feelings of helplessness, and they use drugs as a consequence. The solution lies in volunteer groups to solve other student's day to day problems.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### IS DRUG USE AND ABUSE A PROBLEM?

1. There was general agreement among administrators and counselors that the incidence of drug abuse among Nebraska junior colleges is relatively low as compared to other junior college students in the United States.

2. Counselors and administrators agreed that drug use is not more prevalent among Nebraska junior college students in comparison to students in four-year institutions or universities in Nebraska. The mean score of 4.41 substantiated their strong feelings on this statement.

3. There was general uncertainity among administrators and counselors about any significant increase of drug use and abuse in Nebraska junior colleges within the next few years.

4. Counselors and administrators agreed that alcohol abuse is more serious than drug abuse on the Nebraska junior college campus.

### WHAT KIND OF STUDENT IS INVOLVED?

5. There was general agreement among administrators and counselors that drug abuse is not primarily a problem with the below average student in the Nebraska junior college.

6. Counselors and administrators agreed that drug abuse is not primarily a problem with the high achieving student in the Nebraska junior college.

7. Counselors and administrators generally agreed that drug abuse is primarily a problem with the average student in Nebraska junior colleges.

### WHAT FACTORS HAVE INFLUENCED THE STUDENT?

8. There was general uncertainity among the administrators and counselors that the easy access to drugs is a primary reason for drug use and abuse in Nebraska junior colleges.

9. Counselors and administrators agreed that experimentation is an important factor leading to drug abuse on Nebraska junior college campuses. The mean score 2.07 substantiated their agreement with the statement.

10. Counselors and administrators agreed that drug use in Nebraska junior colleges is not a result of student dissatisfaction or disillusionment with the prevailing education system. The mean score of 4.07 confirmed their strong feelings about the statement.

11. Administrators and counselors expressed uncertainity about student drug use as a means of rebelling against their parents and society in Nebraska junior colleges. The mean score of 2.93 confirmed their uncertainity about the statement.

12. There was general agreement among counselors and administrators that the feeling "to belong" or be with the "in group" is an important reason for drug abuse and use in the Nebraska junior colleges.

13. There was general agreement that the stress in academic course work does not cause students to use and abuse drugs in Nebraska junior colleges.

## WHAT CAN BE DONE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

14. Counselors and administrators agreed that the absence of drug education programs represents a void in the total educational program in Nebraska junior colleges.

15. There was general agreement among administrators and counselors that small groups discussing the problems of drugs could do more than would establishing a program of drug education in the Nebraska junior college curriculum.

16. Administrators and counselors agreed that no drug prevention program will be successful unless the Nebraska junior college student is involved in the planning and execution. A mean score of 1.75 substantiated their strong feeling of agreement with the statement.

17. There was agreement among counselors and administrators that effective junior college programs must provide for continuous community involvement. The mean score of 1.61 confirmed their feeling of agreement with the statement.

18. Counselors and administrators agreed that Nebraska's drug education programs will not lead to increased incidents of drug experimentation.

## PERSONAL OPINIONS ABOUT THE AFFECT OF DRUGS

19. Administrators and counselors agreed that the drug LSD does not stimulate or enhance creativity. The high mean score, 4.48, substantiated their strong feelings about the statement.

20. Administrators and counselors agreed that marijuana is not harmless. A mean score of 4.09 confirms their strong feelings about the statement.

## DRUG USE AND ABUSE

21. An average of 16.6 per cent of drug use was reported by administrators and counselors on their campuses.

22. An average of 4.9 per cent of drug abuse was reported by the administrators and counselors on their campuses.

## CONCLUSIONS

Within the limitations of this study, the following conclusions can be drawn about the opinions of the administrators and counselors:

1. Drug use and abuse among students in Nebraska junior colleges does exist, but to a lesser degree when compared to other students in the United States and four-year institutions or universities in Nebraska.

2. The increase of drug use and abuse in the next few years seems uncertain. Alcohol abuse appears to be a more serious problem at the present time.

3. High achieving and below average students are less likely to participate in drug use and abuse while the average achieving student may be slightly more prone to use and abuse drugs.

4. Easy access to drugs, student dissatisfaction or disillusionment with the educational system, rebellion against parents and society, and stress in academic course work are not primary reasons for drug use and abuse; experimentation, and the feeling "to belong" or to be with the "in group" are more important reasons for student use and abuse of drugs.

5. Drug education programs on Nebraska junior college campuses are needed and should be based on continuous student and community involvement. Most likely, drug education programs will not cause further experimentation with drugs by those students involved in the program.

6. Marijuana can be harmful; LSD does not enhance creativity.

## IMPLICATIONS

Implications for future study are as follows: Drug education programs in Nebraska junior colleges can be justified since a substantial percentage of drug use and abuse is visible to administrators and counselors.

Experimentation, and the feeling "to belong" are important factors leading to drug use and abuse and should be taken into consideration when planning drug education programs for Nebraska junior colleges. Drug education programs should focus on the entire student body in each of the junior colleges and not on one type or kind of particular achiever.

There appears to be sufficient evidence of drug use and abuse on Nebraska junior college campuses to warrant further investigation of perceptions and attitudes of faculty, students, and community in or around the junior college campus. Possibly with extensive investigation of these other areas, a comprehensive and sophisticated drug education program could be developed and used in the junior college curriculum.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Gallup, George, "Second Annual Survey of the Public's Attitude Toward the Public Schools," Phi Delta Kappa, LII, 2, October 1970, pp. 103-104.

2. Feinglass, Sanford, Opinion expressed in Nebraska Educational Television Council for Higher Education, Conversation with Mrs. Lucille Witt, ("The School and Drug Abuse") at Lincoln, Nebraska, October 22, 1969.

"An Opinionnaire to Determine Administrative and Counseling Staff Perception and Attitude Toward Drug Use and Abuse in Nebraska Junior Colleges."

The following items have been prepared to permit you to indicate your perception and attitude toward drug use and abuse in your junior college. Your answer is correct if it expresses your true opinion. PLEASE ANSWER EVERY ITEM. Draw a circle around the number which most accurately expresses your feeling.

1. I strongly agree with the statement,
2. I tend to agree with this statement, but not strongly so.
3. I am undecided, neutral, or have no opinion on this statement.
4. I tend to disagree with this statement, but not strongly so.
5. I strongly disagree with this statement.

Section A

1 2 3 4 5 1. In Nebraska, drug abuse is more prevalent among students in junior colleges than four-year institutions or universities.

1 2 3 4 5 2. No drug prevention program in Nebraska junior colleges will be successful unless the college students themselves are involved in planning and executive.

1 2 3 4 5 3. The drug LSD stimulates or enhances creativity.

1 2 3 4 5 4. The incidence of drug abuse among students in Nebraska junior colleges is relatively low as compared to other students in junior colleges throughout the United States.

1 2 3 4 5 5. No social disease of man has ever been cured by attacking the disease directly, and massive frontal attacks on drug abuse will only intensify the problem.

1 2 3 4 5 6. One must use drugs in order to really know the effect; only in this way can the necessity of drug education in Nebraska junior colleges be determined.

1 2 3 4 5 7. Drug abuse among students in Nebraska junior colleges is primarily a problem with the high achieving or top ranking student.

1 2 3 4 5 8. Marijuana is harmless.

1 2 3 4 5 9. Drug abusers in Nebraska junior colleges are below average students.

1 2 3 4 5 10. Alcohol abuse is more serious than drug abuse on the Nebraska junior college campus.

1 2 3 4 5 11. Those who are drug abusers in the Nebraska junior colleges are using drugs as a means of rebelling against their parents and society.

1 2 3 4 5 12. The use of drugs by Nebraska junior college students is strictly a personal, individual matter.

1 2 3 4 5 13. The stress in academic course work causes students in Nebraska junior colleges to use and abuse drugs.

1 2 3 4 5 14. The single most important factor leading to drug abuse on the Nebraska junior college campuses is experimentation.

1 2 3 4 5 15. Drug education programs which provide information concerning the effects of drugs can lead to increased incidents of experimentation among Nebraska junior college students.

1 2 3 4 5 16. The absence of drug education porgrams on Nebraska junior college campuses represents a void in the total educational program.

1 2 3 4 5 17. Drug use and abuse in Nebraska junior colleges will increase significantly within the next few years.

1 2 3 4 5 18. Effective junior college drug education programs in Nebraska must provide for continuous community involvement.

1 2 3 4 5 19. Small groups honestly and freely discussing the problems of drug would do more toward solving the drug problem in Nebraska junior colleges than would establishing a program of drug education in the curriculum.

1 2 3 4 5 20. Drug abuse in Nebraska junior colleges is primarily a problem with the average student.

1 2 3 4 5 21. An important reason for drug abuse in the Nebraska junior college is the dissatisfaction or disillusionment with the prevailing educational system.

1 2 3 4 5 22. A primary reason for drug abuse and use in the Nebraska junior college is the easy access to drugs.

1 2 3 4 5 23. An important reason for drug abuse and use in the Nebraska junior college is that the student feels a need "to belong" or to be with the "in group."

1 2 3 4 5 24. Marijuana should be legalized.

1 2 3 4 5 25. Drug use and abuse should be considered and treated as a disease rather than a crime on your Nebraska junior college campus.

Section B

Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge. Approximations are sufficient.

_____1. What per cent of the student body on your Nebraska junior college campus have engaged in drug use?

_____2. What per cent of the student body on your Nebraska junior college campus have engaged in drug abuse?

Section C

In the space provided, please relate any personal knowledge or information that you consider important on drug use or abuse on your campus.

Thank you for your time and cooperation. If you would like a copy of the results of this opinionnaire, please check the appropriate blank indicated below.

Please return completed copy to:

Yes _____ No _____
Name _____
Position _____
Institution _____

APPENDIX B

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

TEACHERS COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF
SECONDARY EDUCATION

November 11, 1970

Dear

May I ask your assistance and cooperation in a project being undertaken by Mr. Gerald D. Bailey, doctoral candidate in Secondary Education. As part of a series of projects for The Junior College class, Mr. Bailey is interested in assessing the opinions of the administrative and counseling staffs in Nebraska junior colleges concerning drug use and abuse among students.

Enclosed you will find copies of the instrument entitled "An Opinionnaire to Determine Administrative and Counseling Staff Perception and Attitude Toward Drug Use and Abuse in Nebraska Junior Colleges." Would you, in addition to completing one of the forms yourself, distribute a copy to each of your people in administrative and counseling positions, requesting their return to your office upon completion. The form requires no more than 10 minutes to complete; however, the information may will shed light upon a yet unrecognized problem in our Nebraska junior colleges.

Naturally, all returns will be held in confidence. No individual nor particular institution will be identified as such in the final report. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Mr. Bailey or myself at the University of Nebraska (402-472-3151). Please use the enclosed stamped, self-addressed envelope to return the opinionnaires. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Udo H. Jansen

Gerald D. Bailey

# APPENDIX C

## Schools Receiving Opinionnaires

Opinionnaires were sent to and returned by the following Nebraska junior colleges:

| | |
|---|---|
| Platte Junior College | Columbus, Nebraska |
| York College | York, Nebraska |
| Northeaster Nebraska College | Norfolk, Nebraska |
| Fairbury Junior College | Fairbury, Nebraska |
| North Platte Junior College | North Platte, Nebraska |
| Nebraska Western College | Scottsbluff, Nebraska |
| McCook College | McCook, Nebraska |